MMTC'S Marketing of Rock Phosphate

2898. SHRIMATI PRATIBHA SINGH:
SHRI ASHOK NATH VERMA:

Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that MMTC has been entrusted for Marketing Rock Phosphate produced by RSMML in Northern State;

(b) if so, what are the details thereof; and

(c) what are the criteria laid down by MMTC for Marketing/distribution of Rock Phosphate for SSP (Fertilizer) Manufacturers and for fixing prices per metric tonne, statewise?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) MMTC has an agreement with Rajasthan State Mines and Minerals Limited (RSMML) since 1987-88 for sale of rock phosphate produced by the latter to Single Super Phosphate (Fertilizer) Industry in Northern States. For this, a service charge of Rs. 15/- per tonne is being received by MMTC from RSMML. Rock phosphate requirements of SSP manufacturing units situated in Northern States are first met out of rock phosphate produced by RSMML. The gap between the eligible demand and the supply of RSMML rock phosphate is met by supply of imported rock phosphate. The sale price is fixed according to Government formula and there is a uniform price applicable for supply to units in all States.

Accommodation for Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports

2899. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Joint Chief Controller of Imports and Exports (Central Licensing Area) has hired an air-conditioned accommodation at Asaf Ali Road, Delhi from a private party at an exhorbitant rent; if so, the reasons therefor;

(b) what is the actual rent of the premises;

(c) whether Government are not able to provide accommodation to this office from its own pool; and

(d) if so, what are the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Private accommodation of 40043 sq. ft. has been hired at Rs. 6.58 lakhs per month plus municipal taxes which works out approximately Rs. 47,95,744/- on annual basis for the Office of Joint Chief Controller of Imports & Exports (Central Licensing Area) from a private party.

(c) and (d) The said office was earlier functioning in Govt. accommodation in 'Y' shape building at I.P. Estate. However, as this accommodation was much less than the actual requirements, it was decided to hire the above said private accommodation in November '89, in consultations with CPWD/Ministry of Finance. Now in view of the changes in the Imports and Export Policy, the actual space requirement will be reassessed and Directorate of Estate will be requested accordingly to provide requisite suitable Govt. accommodation for that office.

Reduction in the strength of C.C.I. & E. organisation

2900. SHRI SATCHIDANANDA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact this Government propose to reduce the strength of C.C.I. & E. organisation on ad hoc basis;

(b) whether such increase/reduction is generally done on the basis of assessment made by Staff Inspection Unit of the Ministry of Finance;

(c) what are the reasons for such a departure from carrying out S.I.U. studies;

(d) whether this has resulted in agitation in the organisation; and

(e) what action has been taken by Government on the representation made by the staff?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (c) Office of the CCI&E is being restructured keeping in view the changes brought out by the

New Trade Policy. A Departmental Committee has been constituted to examine the new staffing pattern of the Organisation of CCI&E. Posts which are found un-necessary or redundant will be abolished without in any way affecting the interests of any regular employee of the CCI&E Organisation.

(d) There has been no agitation in the Organisation after constitution of the above Committee.

(e) Does not arise.

Demand of export trading and star trading houses

2901. SHRI VIREN J. SHAH: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the exporters have urged upon Goverment to allow export trading and star trading houses to restructure their organisation and labour on the basis of productivity and efficiency and also be freed from the shackles of stringent labour laws;

(b) if so, what are their main demands; and

(c) what action Government have taken or propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) No, sir.

(b) Not applicable.

(c) Does not arise.

Setting up of joint ventures abroad

*2902. DR. YELAMANCHILI SIVAJI: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) what steps are being taken by Government to strengthen the proper appraisal of proposals for setting up joint ventures abroad; and

(b) whether there is any proposal to put in a penalty clause for non-implementation of joint ventures abroad by Indian partners so as to prevent adverse publicity for Indian Indsutry?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) and (b) Proposal for overseas joint ventures are appraised by an inter-Ministerial Committee which takes into account inputs from the Embassy of India, Department of Economic Affairs, Reserve Bank of India, Exim Bank, Directorate General of Technical Development and other relevant quarters. Recommendations recently received in this regard from a Board of Trade sub-Group are also under consideration.

Facilities for setting joint ventures abroad

**2903. SHRI P. UPENDRA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether there is a greater scope for Indian businessmen to set up joint ventures abroad in view of the changing global economic scenario; and

(b) if so, whether Government propose to substantively liberalise the facilities for Indian businessmen in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE (SHRI P. CHIDAMBARAM): (a) to (b) In view of the changing global economic scenario, revision of guidelines for setting up overseas joint ventures and wholly-owned subsidaries is under consideration of the Government.

Action under Super 301 Trade Act of USA

@2904. SHRI DHULESHWAR MEENA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn to the news item which appeared in the Economic Times, New Delhi dated 15th February, 1992 captioned "Speical 301 Talks outcome still a toss-up";

(b) if so, the outcome of the discussion held at the 26th February, 1992 meeting and U.S. Government's attitude on the issue of its unilateral trade legislation under Special 301 on Trade Marks and Patents and any retaliatory action threatened by that Government; and

(c) the stand taken by India to press its

*Previously Unstarred Question 1292, transferred from the 5th March, 1992.

**Previously Unstarred Question 1297, transferred from the 5th March, 1992.

@Previously Unstarred Question 2398, transferred from the 12th March, 1992.